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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: UN SYG BAN ON NEW AFGHANISTAN ENVOY

REF: A. STATE 108660

[1](#)B. USUN 665

Classified By: Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Returning to New York August 13, UN SYG Ban met with Amb Khalilzad to discuss a number of issues, including the proposed new UN envoy for Afghanistan. Ban said there is as yet no consensus on whether to appoint an additional envoy. He noted that the Europeans are in disagreement about the matter, and recalled that during the Italian-hosted rule of law conference in June, President Karzai had questioned the utility of an envoy who is not based in Kabul.

[1](#)2. (C) Amb Khalilzad advised Ban that the purpose of an additional envoy is to sustain and mobilize support from the international community. This is an important task which merits additional resources. Ban said it would be helpful if he had a better understanding of the role envisioned for such an envoy, including a clear delineation of duties to be handled by the SRSG and those to be carried out by the new envoy. In this regard, Ban said he hoped to increase his personal involvement in fostering regional diplomacy on Afghanistan.

[1](#)3. (C) Separately, the Canadian mission informed USUN August 15 that the newly assigned Canadian Ambassador to Kabul, Arif Lalani, has recommended to Ottawa that the UN effort needs to be energized, although the Canadians have not yet decided whether an additional envoy is the appropriate mechanism.

[1](#)4. (C) Comment: The Dutch, Danish and German PermReps had expressed misgivings about an additional envoy to SYG Ban during a breakfast hosted by the Canadians in July. The German argued that the best way to address concerns about an anemic UN role is to replace SRSG Koenigs, while the Dane was skeptical that "another layer" would help. Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Guehenno shared

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his view that the different and sometimes competing policies of ISAF countries provides the greatest challenge to the international effort in Afghanistan. To persuade Ban to appoint an additional envoy, we will need to bring the Afghans and Europeans on board. End Comment.

KHALILZAD